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R 301309Z APR 85
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, SW, UR
SUBJECT: PALME CITES RAUL WALLENBERG IN CONCENTRATION
CAMP LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY TALK

1. SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC MENTION IN RECENT MEMORY OF WARTIME HERO RAUL WALLENBERG AND HAD BOTH PRAISE AND CRITICISM FOR SWEDISH POLICY AND BEHAVIOR DURING WORLD WAR II WHEN HE ADDRESSED A GATHERING CELEBRATING THE SWEDISH ROLE IN RESCUING AND RESETTLING CONCENTRATION CAMP VICTIMS LIBERATED FORTY YEARS AGO. THE AMERICAN AND ISRAELI AMBASSADORS, SWEDISH OFFICIALS AND OTHERS ATTENDING THE APRIL 28 COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE IN STOCKHOLM'S SYNAGOGUE ALSO HEARD JEWS WHO CAME TO SWEDEN DURING AND AFTER THE WAR PRAISE THE SWEDISH RED CROSS WHICH SENT "WHITE BUSES" TO RESCUE "27,000 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 10,000 JEWS FROM ANNIHILATION."

2. PALME SAID THAT SWEDEN HAS SPARED THE HORRORS OF THE WAR, "BUT ACTUALLY WE SWEDES HAVE NO REASON TO BE PROUD
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OF THAT. WHILE PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE WERE

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PERSECUTED AND DEGRADED WE COULD BUILD OUR SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM. AND THERE WERE SOME UGLY TENDENCIES AMONG US AS WELL. WE HAVE NO REASON TO PRIDE OURSELVES, BUT WE CAN FEEL A JOY AND PRIDE ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WERE MADE. MOST OF THEM WERE ANONYMOUS. BUT I WISH TO MENTION TWO NAMES: RAOUL WALLENBERG AND FOLKE BERNADOTTE (REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WARTIME SWEDISH RED CROSS)."

3. PALME SAID THAT THERE IS NO CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF WALLENBERG'S FATE BUT THAT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE SOVIET CLAIM THAT HE DIED IN 1947 AND IS FOLLOWING UP EVERY POSSIBLE LEAD. "THIS WE OWE TO RAOUL WALLENBERG. AND THIS WE OWE TO THE PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO UNFATHOMABLE SUFFERING IN HUNGARY FOR WHOM HE SACRIFICED SO MUCH." FORSBERG

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